

Z88 EPROM

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THE CLUB ADDRESSES

All articles for **Z88 EPROM** and any other correspondence (except Software Library) should be sent to:

**Z88 USERS' CLUB
68 WELLINGTON STREET
LONG EATON
NOTTINGHAM
NG10 4NG**

All requests for software from the Club Software Library, (but not special offers), items for inclusion in the Library, and EPROMs for erasure should be sent to:

**THE SOFTWARE LIBRARY
Z88 USERS' CLUB
3/8 JENNER ROAD
GUILDFORD
SURREY
GU1 3PL**

ALWAYS include your Membership Number with any correspondence. This is not just to be awkward - now the Club is growing it can be very time-consuming searching the database for a member's number. Your number is printed on the address label of each issue of **Z88 EPROM**. Please be sure to enclose a stamped-addressed envelope with anything needing a reply.

EDITORIAL

Here we are again with the start of a new year and a new volume of **Z88 EPROM** - Happy New Year to you all. To go with the New Year and new volume we also have a new look. As you may have noticed the front cover has been redesigned in a new style, to give **Z88 EPROM** a more professional appearance.

This is the first of a number of changes planned for this year which will make the magazine easier to read, and even better value for money!

This issue contains a little more advertising than normal, and I am conscious that **Z88 EPROM** does not turn into another advertising dominated magazine, like so many other computer titles. I do believe, however, that most members welcome some advertising, allowing them to keep abreast of available products and prices. The adverts are also an effective way of subsidising production costs, thereby keeping subscriptions down. Rest assured I will monitor the situation closely, and if the present level of advertising continues, or indeed increases, I will increase the size of the magazine to keep at least the same amount of editorial content.

You may well have noticed that this issue is, like the last one, a little late in being sent out. Profuse apologies yet again, but I'm afraid with the best will in the world Christmas seems to take over my life for the best part of three weeks in December! Jesting apart, I hope to have the train back on the rails for the next issue (ie. Mar/Apr out by mid-March).

As some of you will know, a local postal dispute at the Nottingham sorting office completely cocked things up for a week or two in November. After the big dispute in September then this in November, the annual folly of the Christmas mail was nothing! Let's hope we are in for a dispute-free year in 1989 - these things certainly show how much we all take for granted a reliable mail system.

News is a little thin on the ground this issue - Christmas time, together with the high summer, are traditionally the "silly seasons", when few press releases are sent out, and few new products launched.

The important news for Club members is the first Club Workshop, which I am organising for Saturday 1st April (yes, seriously, no April Fool joke!) This should be an interesting mix of presentations and your chance to question the experts. See below for further details about the day and how you can be sure of a place.

Following on from the success of the Spellmaster offer to Club members in September, this month I have negotiated a special offer saving £10 off the normal price of the new T-Touch typing tutor - see page 6 for details of the offer, and page 21 for the review.

CLUB WORKSHOP - SATURDAY 1st APRIL 1989

The Club's first Workshop day has been organised for this date. If you look at the provisional itinerary below, you will see that it has the support of several companies, either giving presentations in the morning or being available to answer your questions.

PROVISIONAL ITINERARY - CLUB WORKSHOP

SATURDAY 1st APRIL 1989

AT THE PETERSHAM HALL, LONG EATON

1000 Registration. Morning coffee and biscuits.

1030 Short presentations by:

Wordmongers (zBASE)
Rakewell (Training)
Colton Software (PipeDream)

1245 Buffet lunch with glass of wine

1330 "Any Questions ?" session with panel of experts

1430 Discussion groups

1500 Afternoon tea and biscuits

1630 Delegates depart

Visiting experts already include people from Cambridge Computer, Colton Software, Wordmongers and Rakewell. There will also be a variety of Z88 software and hardware on sale and Cambridge Computer will have their new satellite receiver on display.

HOW TO GET YOUR TICKETS

Send a note to our Long Eaton address, stating clearly your name, address and **Membership Number**, and the number of tickets you require. Also enclose a cheque for £8.00 per ticket made payable to "Z88 Users' Club". We will then send you your tickets, details of how to find the venue, and details of nearby hotels offering overnight accomodation. Please note that admission is strictly **ticket only** - no one will be admitted on the day without a ticket, so please don't just turn up.

One final point on tickets - so I know how many to cater for on the day, all ticket applications must be received by Saturday March 25th 1989.

Please don't confuse this Workshop event with others such as the Z88 Training Days organised by Rakewell - our event is very informal in structure, and has no set aims to teach or train anything in particular. The morning presentations should prove interesting to all, while the afternoon sessions effectively give you access to the experts.

The venue - the Petersham Hall in Long Eaton - was selected not only because it is local to me, thereby making organisation easier, but also because it is literally half a mile from junction 25 on the M1 motorway; making access from both north and south easy.

The day is being financed purely by ticket sales, the price of which are £8.00 each. This price should cover costs if the event is fairly well attended, and I don't think it excessive when you consider it includes coffee, tea and a buffet lunch!

Places are restricted by the size of the venue to about 125, and tickets will be issued on a first-come first-served basis. I anticipate a high response and probable over-booking, so send off for your tickets right away. In the event that your application for tickets arrives after the event is fully-booked, your cheque will of course be returned!

CLUB SPECIAL OFFER - T-TOUCH TYPING TUTOR

Here is another chance to save more than your whole year's subscription to **Z88 EPROM** in one fell swoop! Many people who use a computer have never learned to type properly, and here is a well-designed product that will soon pay for itself in terms of time saved while you are typing. Written by **S&S COMPUTER ADVICE** the package has been designed as a complete typing course - but enough of this, see our full review on page 21.

T-Touch is normally £49.95, but for Club members only, the price is £39.95 until 31st March 1989, saving £10.00.

To order your copy, send a cheque for £39.95 (inc. p&p) **DIRECTLY TO S&S COMPUTER ADVICE** at 8 Anchor Close, Hathern, Loughborough, Leicestershire. LE12 5HP. Be sure to mention the Club Special Offer, and you must also write your Membership Number on your letter.

NEWSLINES

** RAKEWELL are organising further Z88 Training Days, following the success of their event in November. In January Rakewell are organising a follow-on day from the first event, and in February there is another beginner's Training Day. I have seen the course notes Vic Gerhardi prepared for his first event, and I must say I was impressed - they covered a wide variety of topics, and were well illustrated with examples.

It looks as though these will now become a regular feature in the Z88 users' calendar. For further details of the next event, call Vic on 0296 630617

** Wordmongers will have their Z88 Tape Interface on sale by the time you read this. At the time of writing the data transfer rate was approximately 1k of data in six seconds - about the same sort of rate as the ZX Spectrum. So far interest has been high, so if you want one of these contact Wordmongers without delay on 0296 437878.

** THE ASTRA satellite was successfully launched from the Kourou space centre in French Guiana - after a delay of 24 hours caused by the weather and minor technical hitches. The satellite operators plan to start test transmissions late in January, with the first program material (from Sky Channel) on 5th February. See our Newslines Special for details of what channels will be on Astra.

** M-TEC are very close to releasing the Z88's BBC BASIC manual (about time too!). As I write final proofs of the book are with CC for checking, and it basically has just got to be printed. Expect to see it March or April, is my guess.

** CAMBRIDGE COMPUTER have changed their policy on releasing any technical information about the Z88. Previously they would only sell the information to bona fide software developers at £50 a time, on condition that they signed a non-disclosure agreement! No doubt having now realised that this policy is stifling Z88 software development (something I pointed out to them long ago) they will now sell the Software Developers Notes to anyone. The slight drawback is still the price - £35 including p&p - but the book is only produced in small quantities, and is very large (300-odd A4 pages). Contact CC direct on 0223 323143, or why not persuade your local dealer to stock it?

NEWSLINES SPECIAL: CC SATELLITE RECEIVER

Work is progressing well with the satellite project - CC expect to have the first production units at the very end of March (just in time to bring one to the Club Workshop) and the unit will be in the shops during April.

If you intend to 'go satellite' what will you get for your money, both in terms of hardware and the channels you can then receive? First the hardware: All packages will consist of your 'dish' aerial (or 'squarial' in the case of Clive's kit), together with the hardware needed to securely mount it to your chimney or high up on a wall. If you are adept at this sort of thing, the kits should be available for home installation. Doing this will save you about £60. Also supplied will be a length of cable to link the aerial to the tuner, the box which plugs into your TV, and effectively decodes the satellite transmission. How do you watch normal TV if this box is plugged into your set? In common with the signal routing with video recorders, you plug your TV aerial into the tuner, the tuner into your video, and your video into your TV - it sounds complicated, but

really it isn't. Apart from plugging the tuner into the mains for power, the only other connections will be if you have bought a tuner which offers stereo sound - audio out into your hi-fi.

So much for the hardware, but what will it actually offer you in terms of extra TV to watch? There are sixteen 'transponders' (or transmitters) on Astra, each capable of transmitting one TV channel. In fact only 14 of the available transponders will be used, leaving two spare in case of breakdowns. These are the current plans for the main channels on Astra; what they offer, and how much it will cost:

Sky Channel - 24 hours a day general entertainment, films, drama, sport, kids programmes. Funded by advertising, no subscription.

Sky News - News and current affairs 24 hours a day. No subscription.

Eurosport - 18 hours of sport a day. Funded by advertising, no subscription.

Sky Movies - 18 hours of top feature films and

The Disney Channel - Children's TV during the day, family entertainment in evenings from Disney. Initially free, but from late summer will cost £12 per month.

MTV (Music Television) - 24 hours music channel funded by advertising, no subscription.

Landscape - Teleshopping and video muzak, 6 hours a day, funded by teleshopping.

Screensport - 24 hours of sport, funded by advertising, no subscription.

Lifestyle - Daytime programming aimed at women - funded by advertising, no subscription.

Kindernet - Dutch language children's channel, shares transponder with Lifestyle. Subscription funded.

There is your choice on Astra. Next time I will compare Astra to BSB - Britain's other satellite new this year.

MEMBERS' LETTERS

Alan Parr (0504)
Tring, Herts

Dear Roy,

I hope I've been unlucky, but I'm now on my third Z88 having bought the initial machine in January 1988. Both the first two developed the same fault - they were difficult to switch on, and when they did switch on the machine thought it was receiving a succession of presses of the return key (so if you entered PipeDream it just whizzed down and down through the line numbers.) Has the Z88 built up a reputation for unreliability?

(From the many letters that I get, I don't get the impression that the Z88 is generally unreliable. However, of those people that do write with problems, keyboard faults seem to be the most common. Either the machine will not turn on or off, or the keys do not produce the letters they are supposed to.

Both of these problems are caused by faults developing in the keyboard matrix which sits under the rubber key mat. Usually this has shorted somewhere, which makes the Z88 think a key is being pressed all the time - try it; with the Z88 off, hold a key down then press the two shift keys. The Z88 won't switch on, and this is effectively what the short causes.

CC have told me that one batch of machines seem to be causing problems due to the keyboard matrix failing, possibly due to some faulty components. I will monitor the problem. One other possible cause for the symptom above is condensation between the rubber and matrix, again shorting out some keys. If your Z88 acts up when you bring it from the cold into a warm room, this is most probably the cause. - Roy)

~~~~~

David Stansbie (0997)  
Birmingham

Dear Roy,

I am writing to air a feeling about a certain advert in the Sept/Oct 88 issue of the magazine for the 'Supertwistalite'. My main complaint is not about the actual advert but the company selling the product. The device is retailed by them at £13.95 (£11.95 to members), which is not a bad mark-up considering 'Maplin', the electronics store, sells the device for £2.95. I must admit I had to buy a small strip of Velcro at 17p, and a jack plug to make a flying lead, which was about 30p. So even if we count the time to make it the total cost could be no more than £4.00.

This cannot be good for Z88 users who have the extra expense in purchasing RAM packs etc. - I feel that if such a device is needed most Z88 users have the skill and knowledge to make it themselves and save a good £8 or £9, to put towards the next EPROM!

(Before compiling this issue for printing, I wrote to Aware Technology asking if they had any comments in the light of this letter. At the time of writing I have not received a reply. - Roy)

~~~~~

Ed Rodmell (0834)
Beverley, N. Humberside

Dear Roy,

I recently bought the Z88 primarily to make use of its in-built spreadsheet facilities. I purchased just the basic 32k model intending to expand its memory should PipeDream prove to be suitable for my requirements.

Although my knowledge of computing is rather limited I have had a fair amount of experience preparing and using spreadsheets in my work as an accountant and frequently make use of Appletworks and Flashcalc on my Apple IIe.

My first impression of PipeDream is that it is a good word processor, an adequate database, but a poor spreadsheet. In the time I have been using it, it appears to lack the following basic, and in my opinion, essential facilities:

- 1) The most serious omission seems to be that there is no means by which cells can be protected. In my view, this makes the spreadsheet unsuitable for serious business use.
- 2) Replicate (\diamond BRE), one of the most frequently used operations in preparing a spreadsheet, is particularly laborious to use, and although it is listed as a block command in the manual it does not appear to function on a marked block.
- 3) There appears to be no facility for automatically displaying commas every third digit to the left of a decimal point - so important for presentation purposes.
- 4) It is not easy to move from one corner of a spreadsheet to another. For example, \diamond CGS, \diamond CFC and \diamond CLC are time-consuming to enter and difficult to remember. It would have been much better if \diamond 1 had been used to move to the top left-hand corner and \diamond 9 to move to the bottom right-hand corner with perhaps \diamond 2 to \diamond 8 being used for proportional moves.

Until a suitable spreadsheet becomes available (or PipeDream is improved) I will not be using my Z88 as much as I would wish, which is unfortunate because I like the ease with which it can be used and also the basic concept of PipeDream. Sadly, however, in its present form PipeDream is not my pipe dream!

John Carpenter (1036)
Woodhouse Eaves

Dear Roy,

I must congratulate David Prestage on his useful review of IMPEXP80 in the Sept/Oct 1988 issue of Z88 EPROM - it was clear and thorough. Perhaps I can add a couple of points from my own experience:

1) When I first received the software I struggled for quite a while to make it work. I could transfer text files from the Z88 to the PCW but portions of them were missing. I called C-Port and a very helpful chap there solved the problem for me. It turns out that you need version 1.4 or later of CP/M Plus for successful use of IMPEXP80, although there is no mention of this in the otherwise good manual.

2) Printing PipeDream text files from the Z88 on the PCW printer works, but it is a slow process. There is a long pause between pressing <enter> on the Z88 and getting a response from the printer - up to half a minute at times. In fact when I first had the program I didn't wait long enough and I thought that I had discovered another fault! The manual doesn't mention the need to be patient.

I certainly agree that Option 5 on the IMPEXP80 menu (converting PipeDream files to CP/M files) isn't necessary for Locoscript 2 - a transferred PD text file loads very satisfactorily into Locoscript using the "insert text" option.

Simon Liston (0523)
Chelmsford

Dear Roy,

Is there anything you can do so that we can have enough information to write our own Z80 assembler programs? CC say that they want to keep the quality of the software

high, so are keeping very tight-lipped about the m/c interface. I think most people appreciate (especially after repeated "be very careful" warnings) that rampant m/c programs can severely damage the health of your Z88. LET THE PEOPLE HAVE THE INFORMATION SO WE CAN EXPAND THE SOFTWARE BASE!!

(CC have recently relaxed their rules regarding the technical info - a 300+ A4 page Software Developers Manual is available from CC for £35 including p&p.- Roy)

QUERIES, HINTS AND TIPS

If you use the Brother HR-5 thermal printer, you will know how expensive the Brother thermal printing paper is, either as rolls or sheets. I find I can use paper meant for use in facsimile machines, as these seem to use the same type of printing technique as the HR-5. Fax paper is available in a variety of roll diameters, almost always A4 wide. Try to get rolls about 1" diameter, meant for use with the latest 'desk-top' fax machines - this paper is about half the price of the Brother.

Philip Hodson (0713)

Perhaps Z88 EPROM could run a feature on "How to do BASIC programming" ? This would be a great help for people like me, who went to school long before computers did! (A good idea, although probably more of a series than a single feature would be needed. Do other people want a "BASIC for beginners" series ? Let me know and one will appear. - Roy)

Richard Russell (0365)

The Z88 BASIC does not have *LOAD and *SAVE commands, but the equivalent operations can be achieved by using the following simple procedures:

100 DIM fname 255

```
60000 DEF PROCload($fname,E%):LOCAL H%,L%,D%,B%,C%:  
L%=fname  
60010 H%=L% DIV 256:D%=E% DIV 256:B%=C% DIV 256:CALL  
&FEA3:ENDPROC
```

```
60020 DEF PROCsave($fname,E%,C%):LOCAL H%,L%,D%,B%:  
L%=fname  
60030 H%=L% DIV 256:D%=E% DIV 256:B%=C% DIV 256:CALL  
&FEA6:ENDPROC
```

The equivalent to the command *LOAD filename aaaa
is PROCload("filename",&aaaa)
and the equivalent to *SAVE filename aaaa +bbbb
is PROCsave("filename",&aaaa,&bbbb)
(note that the third parameter of PROCsave is the length
of the file.

fname must point to a suitable area of memory in which to
store the filename; in practice it may not be necessary
to allocate a 256-byte buffer, but it is safest to do so
if space is no object. Alternative methods of allocating
reserved memory, such as lowering HIMEM or raising LOMEM,
are also acceptable.

Robert Nealy (0961)

I would welcome news via the magazine of anyone
developing a version of the KERMIT file transfer program
for the Z88.

M. Green (1264)

I need to find my way out of the second level of
Wordmongers 'Withered Toad' adventure. Can anyone give
me any pointers ?

Ronnie Mackay (0168)

Is it possible to set up an EPROM card to enable the programs to be used like the inbuilt applications ? I want to have the BASIC programs on the card and it would have a menu to pick the program from and run it automatically.

(Firstly, yes it is possible to configure an EPROM card to behave as though it is a ROM application, but this needs to be done using assembler and the technique explained in the Software Developers Notes. To achieve what you ask, you could write your menu program in BASIC, and this program would load the selected program from EPROM, into BASIC and run it, using a CLI file. Each of your programs would need to return control to your menu program on exit. - Roy)

Dick Gray (0992)

I have written a program for astral navigation using sun, star, moon and planet sights. Anyone who would like a copy please send an EPROM with return post and packing to: Mr. R. Gray, Red Roofs, Ingoldsby Avenue, Ingoldsthorpe, Kings Lynn, Norfolk. PE31 6NH.

SOFTWARE REVIEW -

PC PIPEDREAM BY COLTON SOFTWARE

PART TWO - NEW FACILITIES

In the last issue I looked at the compatibility of PC PipeDream with our Z88 version. This time I will outline the extra facilities offered by the PC version, over and above what can be done on the Z88.

Forgetting for the moment those extra facilities which are really due to the program running on a PC - eg. defining the colours for screen displays; using the PC function keys - the main additions of general interest

are a number of extra financial and database functions, and an easily implemented mail-merge facility.

Financial Functions

The following new functions will be of particular interest to anyone who deals with monetary calculations - accountants possibly:

- CTERM - Calculates compounding periods
- DDB - Depreciation allowances on assets
- FV - Future value of investments after specified term
- IRR - Internal rate of return of an investment
- NPV - Net present value of future cash flows
- PMT - Calculates loan repayments
- PV - Computes value discounted by interest
- RATE - Calculates interest rate to give required return
- SLN - Straight line depreciation
- SYD - Depreciation using sum-of years' digits method
- TERM - Computes term needed to reach future value

There are also a number of statistical functions which will operate on a range or list of slots:

- AVG - Returns average value of list
- STD - Population standard deviation
- VAR - Population variance of the list

The Z88 version of PipeDream has only limited use as a database, leading of course to the development of products like zBASE. In the PC version Colton have added some database-specific functions to ease data manipulation, by adding conditional statements to the following commands:

- DMAX
- DAVG
- DCOUNT
- DMIN
- DSUM
- DVAR

PC PipeDream also gives additional capacity in terms of the number of rows or columns: The PC version offers up to 8192 columns by 500 million rows, the Z88 version 64 columns by 65536 rows. All these figures are of course the maximum capability of the software - in practice the maximum size you can use depends on the amount of RAM you have. Another point to consider is not to be blinded by the numbers, but to think about your actual requirements - not many people actually use spreadsheets of 8000-odd columns!

Two powerful new commands in PC PipeDream relate to programming function keys and the keyboard itself. As the program is supplied, various functions are assigned to various PC function keys. If you don't like the function key used for a particular command, or you want to alter it to conform to another program whose commands you are used to, PC PipeDream simply lets you using the Define Function Key command.

An interesting feature of this command, which extends its usefulness considerably, is the fact that you can redefine function keys to produce not just single characters or commands, but **strings**. For example, using one of the ALT+function key commands, which aren't actually defined as anything, you could program it as your name and address, or a standard paragraph for a letter. After you have defined it, simply pressing ALT plus your chosen key will make the program print your string into the current slot.

This facility saves an awful lot of time, especially if you write a lot of standard letters, and is similar to the glossary functions built into some word-processors. On the Sinclair Spectrum and QL a program was written called KEYDEFINE, which basically offered the same facility. Perhaps some enterprising person will write a version for the Z88.

Coming back to PC PipeDream, the programming of keys does not stop with function keys - the whole keyboard is soft and can be redefined at will; the manual giving the example of turning \$ into £. Other uses might include the definition to use foreign character sets.

Another useful facility well implemented on PC PipeDream is mailmerge. For example, to send a standard letter to your address book, with each letter containing name, address and other details specific to each addressee, you would need two files. One would be your address book file, with each field of information in a new PipeDream slot, save in Tab format. The other file would be your standard letter, and at each point where you wish to merge data from the address book, you would type in an @ character and a number. This number simply refers to the position of the required item in the address book.

Linking files are a device which allows you to transfer part of one spreadsheet into the linking file, by specifying Row and Column limits. This linking file can then be loaded into an area on a second spreadsheet.

I think that has really covered the main additions in terms of new commands and facilities in PC PipeDream. In conclusion, if you use your Z88 a lot, are satisfied with Z88 PipeDream, and have a PC, you will find PC PipeDream very worthwhile. The main benefits for me are the similar key commands (there is nothing worse than trying to learn and remember several sets of command keys for different programs - I find it always results in confusion when I try to use the wrong command in the wrong program!), and the ease with which files can be transferred between PC and Z88 at will (assuming you have a PC Link II EPROM, of course).

PC PipeDream is available on 5.25" or 3.5" disk, priced at £99 + VAT, from Colton Software, Broadway House, 149-151 St. Neots Road, Cambridge CB3 7QJ. They also produce a version for the Acorn Archimedes.

HARDWARE REVIEW - RS232 SWITCH BOX

by Simon Phipps (0221)

I have always liked playing with bits of wire, and on my desk have a wire going to a modem, a wire going to my B28 computer and one to the parallel interface (and thence to whichever printer is in favour). I found I was constantly swapping over wires and soon decided I would need a T-switch. Looking in the Maplin catalogue, I found one costing £40 which came in a massive metal case, and having priced up the necessary components though that this would be a good price, particularly as other suppliers like Inmac charge £125 for an equivalent unit! Then I saw in an advert from WordMongers one advertised at £25; it had to be a good deal, particularly as it had 9-pin rather than 25-pin connectors, so I ordered one.

When it arrived, I was surprised by just how small it turned out to be. It is 11 x 5.5 x 2cm, with a short 10cm lead and plug on one of the long sides, two 9-pin sockets on the other long side, a third on a short side and a bank of three push switches on the other short side. There is a crudely printed sticky label on the top labelling the sockets and switches; apart from this, everything else is black. The unit seems solid enough, having a PCB construction, and is easy and obvious to use, though the plastic construction implies a possibility of interference. It is annoying having such a short lead from the box to the Z88; I would prefer to keep it well to one side at the end of a metre or so of cable. The switches can be operated very easily with one hand, and I'm fairly pleased with the unit; it is good value for money if you need a T-switch.

Price: £24.95

Manufacturer: E.F.S., Chesterton Mill, French's Road, Cambridge CB4 3NP Tel. 0223 323143

SOFTWARE REVIEW -

T-TOUCH TYPING TUTOR

One might think that because the usual method of data entry on a computer is the keyboard, that typing is a skill essential to using a computer. Logical though this assumption is, the fact is that most people who use computers cannot type - two or three finger in 'hunt and peck' mode are the order of the day!

What can you say in a review of a typing tutor? "Yes, it does teach you to type" perhaps. T-Touch differs from most other typing tutors that I have encountered in that it does not rely solely on the software for its results.

Supplied with the 32k ROM containing the program is an excellent 30 page A5 manual, which firstly explains how touch typing is achieved, gives guidance on the principles of learning and how to structure your own training plan to complete the course within a specified time.

The manual also includes a selection of exercises to work through as part of the course. A record chart is included which is used to graphically record your results as you progress through the lessons.

One nice touch is a diy keyboard cover - cardboard which has to be folded and stapled to form an open-sided box which covers the keys, but allows you to use the keyboard. The manual recommends that you should use this to stop crafty peeking at the keys.

And so on to the software itself. It is a structured course of 24 exercises designed to develop the required motor and sensory skills to enable you to type without looking at the keyboard. Most of these are similar to

those I have seen on other typing tutors, in that they train your fingers to type certain combinations of letters during each exercise, and as the skills of each finger become established, the later lessons consolidate the skills together until you are using the whole keyboard. Finally the accent is on increasing the speed of typing, while maintaining the accuracy built up in earlier lessons.

The manual makes the point that most people will presently be using two finger techniques, and in order to speed learning the new method (and un-learning the old) you should do two things while working through the lessons:

Give up other typing while learning, and

Stop using hunt-and-peck altogether.

The manual recommends a minimum regime of one 1 hour session or two 1/2 hour sessions per day, for a minimum of fourteen days, stressing that practice **every** day means just that - seven days a week.

In conclusion, the software supplied with T-Touch isn't what makes it rather special. It is the academic approach of the course, and the extremely comprehensive nature of the documentation which makes this package so good. If you want to learn to type, and can honestly be sure to spend the time needed to use the course properly, T-Touch will undoubtedly be a great help.

PRODUCT: T-Touch Typing Tutor

SUPPLIER: S&S COMPUTER ADVICE, 8 Anchor Close, Hathern, Leicestershire. LE12 5HP

PRICE: £49.95 (See Special Offer on page 6)

Z88 SOFTWARE FAULT LIST - Simon Phipps (0221)

I too have been unsuccessful in getting CC to release a list of bugs to me; why don't we collate a rolling list in Z88 EPROM or at the Software Library? My own chief gripes are with the PrinterEd, as follows:

Bug 0001 Printer Editor causes 'FAIL'

I suspect there to be a memory management fault which makes the PrinterEd trigger a FAIL condition after several different configurations have been loaded and the ^FU command used on them. It is particularly associated with use of the '?' feature where the Z88 does the work during underlining; loading a driver which doesn't use '?' after this seems to trigger the problem and cause bug 0002 as well. This is a real pain as I have a daisy-wheel printer which needs this feature as well as a dot-matrix printer which doesn't

Bug 0002 Underline code not sent in PrinterEd

After a configuration has been used which uses the '?' feature (see bug 0001), subsequent configurations do not have their underline code sent.

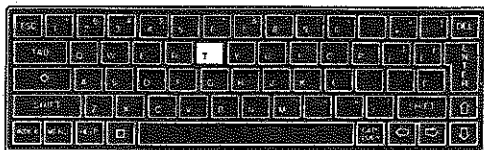
I have reported both of these to CC who seem at best unconcerned. Would other members care to report their bugs and experiences of reporting them?

Z88 MAILING LIST ON TELECOM GOLD

I am maintaining a list of interested members on Telecom Gold, to whom any news received is sent. If you want to join the list, please send me a message. I am relying on those on the list to provide news of products, bugs and events. Simon Phipps (0221) Telecom Gold 83:NTG339, telex 9312130002

T - TOUCH

The Typing Tutor for the Z88



What is T-TOUCH

T-TOUCH is a special course and software program for self-learning to touch-type on the Z88.

Who needs T-TOUCH

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T-TOUCH contains

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the Z88stockist
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Wordmongers Ltd.

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Wordmongers software is licensed not sold. The full details of the software licence are available upon request from Wordmongers Ltd.

Prices are valid from April 1988 and include VAT at 15%. Postage and packing must be added to the amount you send at the rate of £2.00 for letter or parcel post.

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zBASE

The latest version of our relational database programming language is now available. V1.2 cleans up the bugs found in earlier versions including the dreaded 'soft reset' bug which most people will not have even come across! All users who have returned their licence will have received a notice to this effect. Those who haven't upgraded should do so as soon as possible. Simply send your EPROM (not the packaging or manual) back to us and your upgrade will be sent free of charge by return of post.

Also available is the zBASE front end package which gives the user full screen create, append, amend and search facilities. Invaluable to users and programmers alike this system is now being supplied on a PC disk with every copy of zBASE. Those zBASE users who have not returned their licence can get the suite from the Z88 User's Club Library or Wordmongers BBS.

SuperChip

In the past, all our products have been designed to fit into 32K ROMs, so, now the technology is available, we can produce the SuperChip. One 128K ROM contains zBASE, Z-TERM, The Withered Toad and Scrazble, all appearing as individual applications on the index. Special upgrade prices are available to users who already have one or more of these programs. Standard retail price is £99 inc VAT, available now.

Tape Interface

At the time of writing work on the Tape Interface is well advanced. This software will have additional hardware to enable users to archive data on cassette tapes using any standard cassette recorder. All those costly 128K EPROMs can be taken off the shelf, have the dust blown off them and be put back to use.

The response from the last edition was sufficiently encouraging to finish the job. Orders are now being taken and shipment will have started by the end of January (we have over-run a bit). Contact TK Computerware or phone us for details of your local dealer.

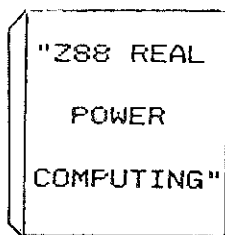
Wordmongers continue to provide technical support for their products, and will hopefully be able to spend more time on new products.

All suggestions and gossip gratefully received.

See you all at the Club Workshop in April!

**Back by Popular Demand
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at Milton Keynes**

Contact – Vic Gerhardi at Rakewell
on ☎ Milton Keynes (0908) 366009
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Explains

HOW

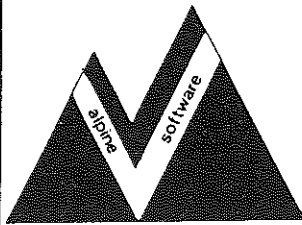
to:-

- 1) Merge globally with a simple method that cycles through your database extracting details, such as you determine, inserting them wherever you require in a "standard" letter. Explanation of how to edit your database also included.
- 2) Merge selectively, browse through your database and select different letters for different people (suitable for accounts chasers, etc), extracting details from database as required and inserting wherever required in said letters.
- 3) Produce a graphic bar chart utility to illustrate the comparison between various figures. The largest figure shown as ninety symbols (eg, * or > or # etc - change at your will), and other figures illustrated in proportion in 1/90ths. Heading labels shown on screen.
- 4) Produce address and product labels.
- 5) Screen display your database, ie one screen one record, without the clutter of other records, or trailing off screen. Call records on screen by name or ref number. Or 'motor' through the lot backwards or forwards.
- 6) Translate from one language to another.
- 7) Convert currencies, from any to any, eg £ to \$, \$ to DM, Lira to FF etc, with or without side calculations for division or multiplication.
- 8) Make a trip calculator (estimate time of journey, fuel consumption, fuel remaining, and cost of fuel, etc)
- 9) Make a diet calculator (edit a diet sheet, keeping a running total of calories and costs, etc, as required, on screen).
- 10) Make an Invoice Generator (input name of customer, quantities, and reference numbers. Let the Invoice Generator fill in the address, prices, extensions, make additions, sub total, calculate and deduct discounts, calculate and add tax, etc)
- 11) To use the four most powerful spreadsheet devices.
- 12) Get the most from your Z88:- Rudiments of typing; Software overview, Pipedream, Basic, Diary, CLI, Filer, Print Editor, Calculator, Etc; Comprehensive review of add on products and further sources of information, Etc; Problem avoidance; database and spreadsheet tips; Etc.

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alpine software

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For the Z88

B

ased on one of the most successful programs for the BBC Micro, SPELLMASTER has now been re-written for the Z88. Supplied as a plug-in ROM cartridge, it can be permanently available - there is no loading of programs from disc etc.

Using the built-in editor SPELLMASTER provides check-as-you-type combined with fast and simple text entry. Other features include:

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- User extension dictionary allows this number to be extended.
- User dictionary may be edited, like normal text.
- User dictionaries can be saved and loaded to and from file or other computers, as ASCII files.
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 - Words that are spelt approximately like that specified - this is ideal for guessing mistyped words.
 - Words that have one or more letters missing (solves crosswords).
 - Words that have the correct letters, in the wrong order (solves anagrams).
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- Built-in text editor. A simpler more straightforward text editor than Pipedream. This editor offers the following:
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 - logical standard editing features, i.e. words wrap as you type, lines can be split by pressing RETURN at any point, lines may be joined by deleting back from the line start.
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The real use of SPELLMASTER is not always in correcting spelling mistakes. Few people are expert typists, especially on a lightweight portable such as the Z88. SPELLMASTER can detect typing errors just as easily as spelling mistakes and can ensure that text entered on the Z88 is correct before it is downloaded to other computers.

SPELLMASTER is more powerful, and certainly more convenient, than many spelling checkers provided on larger micros.

Price £51.30 + VAT (£59.00 incl.)



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PipeDream

PipeDream is now available for the IBM PC and compatibles, and the Acorn Archimedes. It has been completely rewritten for these computers and contains many new facilities, whilst retaining complete file and keyboard compatibility with the Z88.

PipeDream on the PC or Archimedes makes the ideal companion for your Z88. With just a connecting lead and the PC LINK II EPROM you can load files directly from the Z88 filing system into PipeDream on the other computer and continue working with no loss of information. Now you can use PipeDream on the computer in your home or office as well as using it in the Z88.

New features of PipeDream on the PC and Archimedes include:

- ◆ up to 8192 columns and over 500,000,000 rows (depending upon your computer's memory size)
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- ◆ function keys
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- ◆ LOTUS file load and save
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PipeDream for the IBM PC and PipeDream for the Acorn Archimedes costs £99 + VAT.

For more information or to order PipeDream call us on 0954 211472 or write to us at Colton Software, Broadway House, 149-151 St Neots Road, Cambridge CB3 7QJ. Access and VISA telephone orders welcome.

PipeDream - power at your fingertips

SOFTWARE LIBRARY UPDATE -

zBase Library Corner

You will have read in the last edition of Z88 EPROM that we are now offering Wordmongers' zBase Front End suite to interested members. This suite of programs shields you from the full horror of zBase and is very easy to get on with. It comes with full documentation and is over 28k in size - so be warned - it needs a 32k EPROM to itself!

By the time you read this, I should also be in a position to be able to supply Wordmongers' example **Stock** and **Boxchars** suites of programs. These, too, will require a 32k EPROM to themselves, or all three could be supplied on one 128k EPROM.

Not to be out done, Simon Phipps (0221) has supplied us with an alternative front end suite entitled CardBase. Indeed, this is his second version and comes complete with extremely comprehensive documentation. The suite allows for cross-referencing between records and is very sophisticated, whilst remaining very simple to use. The suite itself is 28k in size, the documentation a further 11k!! Therefore, unless you have 128k EPROMs, this will be best distributed on disk. I can cope with 3.5" QL-disks (or mdv's, of course) and Simon says he would be prepared to supply the suite on PC, BBC 3.5" or BBC 5.25" disks - assuming, he says, that DiskOver really works!

In addition, the application suite which was mentioned in Wordmongers' recent literature, my own Hospital Suite, together with another, Dental Suite, are also available. Here are a few details.

The definition of the Hospital database (called "Hospital") is:

```
Hospital$,40
Address$,80
Tel$,20
C1$,20
C2$,20
C3$,20
C4$,20
```

The definition of the Dental database (called, would you believe, "Dental.dbf") is:

```
Title$,5
Name$,15
Surname$,20
Tel$,20
Trained$,5
Hospital$,40
Address$,80
Notes$,80
```

The ZBRUN file which is included simply points zBase in the direction of a sub-directory "ZBASE" whereupon entering "do hprg" or "do dprg" at the curly (}) prompt will then open either the Hospital or Dental database.

The basic difference between the two file types is that the Hospital database is indexed on Hospital\$ and allows up to 4 separate contacts to be entered per record. This could, obviously, also be used as a company database.

The Dental.dbf is indexed by Surname\$ and has space for notes of up to 80 characters - a very simple address book, if you like.

Planned improvements include the ability not just to perform an in-string search, as seen in the hospital database, but also to allow a choice of field for searching. This is going to be very simple to implement, but I haven't got around to it yet!!

ADDITIONS TO THE LIBRARY

Another three programs are added to the Library, this time thanks to Steve Butterworth and Geoff Thorne.

Z036 PrinterEd file for a Hewlett-Packard Desk-Jet page printer by Steve Butterworth (3.5k total).

A=documentation

B=PrinterEd file

Z037-8 Two BASIC programs by Geoff Thorne (0791)

Z037 BIO.BAS (3.5k) - A Biorhythm calculating program designed for printer operation, but does give a scrolling screen display which may be paused by LHS shift & <> keys. Days on which curves cross on the mid-line are considered 'risk' days.

Z038 MINMAX.BAS (2.5k) - Allows input and plotting of monthly max and min temperature data. Output to screen and printer, with range (max-min) indicated. Requires BASIC Patch.

As ever I am always happy to receive your programs for the Software Library. Please send them on EPROM with some written documentation if possible to the Software Library address on page 2. Be sure to include your name, address and membership number, and some return postage.

That's all for now, more in the next issue.

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THE CLUB ADDRESS ON PAGE 2.

NEXT ISSUE OUT MID MARCH

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